

## 2011 Annual Operating Instructions Upper East Fork C&H Allotment

### **1: INTRODUCTION:**

#### **Permitted Use:**

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Season</b>
Sydney Dowton #4568	254 c/c	06/18-10/15

#### **Authorized Use:** Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>HMs*</b>
Sydney Dowton #4568	161 c/c	06/11-08/15	349

\* 553 HMs allocated per East Fork ROD, as long as conditions continue to be met

#### **Permitted Livestock Brands**

**3S** "LRC" or "RHC"

### **2: COMPLIANCE:**

This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2 Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements. Your compliance with these instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and these instructions may result in issuance of a notice of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit.

Permittees with livestock in rested units, grazing units outside the season of use, and grazing areas not authorized, will be held non-compliant with the terms and conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Such non-compliance may result in billing for excess use, permit modification / cancellation, or other actions as provided in FSH 2209.13.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require modifications to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Additional riding will be required on all Units for the 2011 grazing season to assure pasture moves are made before utilization standards are exceeded.

Notice of non-compliance actions: None

All livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest is required to be certified weed free.

### **3: PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS:**

Ocular estimates made during various pasture inspections indicate that compliance with utilization

standards was achieved for the 2010 grazing season. The Bowery Unit was grazed none to slightly in 2010. End of season stubble height measurements at Bowery Creek, Fisher Creek and Grouse Albert were met.

#### **4: BILLING:**

The 2011 cost per Head Month for cattle is \$1.35 per head month/cattle. A Bill for Collection will be mailed to you.

Grazing fees must be paid by the date specified on the Bill for Collection to:  
USDA Forest Service c/o Citibank PO Box 301550 Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550.

**Confirmation of payment through the “lock box” process must be received before livestock can enter NFS lands.**

#### **5: LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:**

2011 Rotation:

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Rotation*</b>	<b>Approximate Season*</b>
Fisher / Narrow Canyon	Use 1st	06/11 - 07/11
East Fork	Use 2 <sup>nd</sup> (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	07/12 - 07/31**
Grouse / Albert	Use 2 <sup>nd</sup> (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	07/12 - 07/31**
West Pass	Use 3rd (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	08/01 - 08/14**
Bowery	Use 3rd (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	08/01 – 08/14**

**\*Livestock will be moved out of each pasture before utilization standards are exceeded.**

**\*\*All livestock must be removed from East Fork and Grouse Albert Units before 08/01, and from the Bowery and West Pass Units before 08/15, unless an earlier off-date is specified in the AOI, or becomes necessary because utilization standards will be reached earlier than anticipated.**

Actual on-dates, off-dates, and grazing rotations will be determined on the basis of range readiness, utilization, or other resource considerations as deemed necessary by the authorized Forest Officer. Such changes will typically be made in consultation with the permittee(s).

**You will be responsible for monitoring livestock move thresholds or “triggers” during the grazing season.** These “triggers” will assist you in ensuring that end of season utilization standards are not exceeded. The Sawtooth NRA range staff will conduct spot checks as necessary. Typically, “triggers” will be the standard(s) listed below in section 6, Standards and Guidelines. **It is strongly suggested that livestock be moved before utilization standards are reached.** This will help to prevent forage utilization in excess of standards, allowing for time to clean the unit of stragglers.

The scheduled “off-date” is not the day to start moving your herd; it is the date by which you should have all permitted livestock removed from the pasture or allotment.

If you move your permitted livestock on to the allotment later than the scheduled “on-date”, and want to stay past your “off-date”, then you must make arrangements early in the grazing season, and obtain approval from the District Ranger or other authorized Forest Officer.

Please realize that it is in your best interest to keep cattle distributed throughout useable areas in the currently authorized pasture. **Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you.** If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and around water developments, utilization standards will likely be reached prior to the scheduled pasture move or “off-date”. This may result in directed early pasture moves or early removal of livestock from the allotment.

## **6: STANDARDS AND GUIDES:**

### **The following restrictions apply to this allotment:**

- **West Pass Creek** – Livestock shall not enter before 07/15 for steelhead emergence, and livestock must be removed before 08/15 for bull trout spawning.
- **Main East Fork River** – Livestock shall be removed prior to 08/01 for salmon spawning.
- **South Fork of the East Fork & West Fork of the East Fork** – Livestock will be restricted from grazing in the upper reaches of both drainages. The closed area begins approximately ½ mile up Trail #112 in the West Fork and Trail #113 in the South Fork.
- **Bowery Unit** - Will be grazed every third year, and monitored to assure goals and objectives are being met.

### **Proper Use Standards:**

Your Term Grazing Permit specifies maximum allowable utilization levels applicable to your allotment. To comply with the Revised 2003 Sawtooth FLRMP, changes to some of the allowable use levels have been implemented; specifically when the riparian goals and objectives are not being met. When utilization estimates indicate that allowable use levels have been reached in the pasture currently being grazed, livestock must be moved to the next scheduled pasture, or removed entirely from the allotment regardless of any time remaining in the grazing season schedule.

You are responsible for tracking forage use levels and complying with utilization standards. For your convenience, the Upper East Fork C&H maximum allowable forage utilization levels under the Sawtooth FLRMP are listed below.

### **Riparian Areas:**

Forage Utilization standards for riparian areas shall not exceed 30% use of most palatable forage species, or must retain a minimum 6 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first, *when riparian goals and objectives are not being met* (Management Area 3, Standard 03109).

Unit	Creek	Greenline Utilization Standard*	Mesic Utilization Standard+
All Units	All Creeks	30% or 6"	40%

\*Water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) or Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebraskensis*) will be the key species measured to determine riparian (greenline) utilization.

+ Kentucky Bluegrass (*poa pratensis*) will be the key species measured to determine mesic utilization.

**Upland Vegetative Cover Types:**

Early season or season long pastures: 40 percent use or retain a minimum of 3- inch stubble height for Kentucky bluegrass, a 6-inch stubble height for Bluebunch wheatgrass, and a 2-inch stubble height for Idaho fescue. (Standard RAST01).

Unit	Vegetative Type	Utilization Standard**
All Units	Sagebrush/Fescue	40%

\*\* Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) will typically be the key species measured to determine upland utilization, though other species may be may be measured to estimate utilization at the discretion of the Forest Officer.

**7: IMPROVEMENTS:**

All improvements for which you have maintenance responsibility are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

**Improvements will be maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the pasture/allotment.**

When improvements have been maintained, please call the Stanley Ranger Station and report that maintenance has been completed. If verification is not received from the permittee prior to the allotment "on-date", follow-up inspections may be made. If it is found that maintenance has not been completed, and the responsible permittee's livestock are present on the allotment, the permittee may be billed for unauthorized use and / or permit action taken for non-compliance.

If an allotment is in non-use status, the permittee is still responsible for improvement maintenance.

**All troughs must have a wildlife escape ramp installed in them.** Failure to install these ramps may result in non-compliance for the season. Please contact SNRA range staff if you need ramps or instructions for installation. Wildlife ramps were requested by the permittee at the 04/25/2011 spring meeting. The range staff will drop off ramps at location discussed at meeting.

Improvements used in common with an adjoining permittees, such as allotment boundary fences, must be maintained to standard before either permittee allows livestock to enter the allotments.

No ground disturbing activities may be conducted by the permittee or their personnel on National Forest System lands without prior approval from the authorized Forest Officer.

Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should be coordinated with the range staff.

**Permittee (or authorized agent of permittee) use of ATVs and motorcycles outside designated routes shown on the Sawtooth National Forest/Sawtooth National Recreation Area Motor Vehicle Use Map is limited to that required for allotment management operations such as maintenance and repair of range improvements, and distribution or retrieval of salt during or immediately after the authorized grazing season.**

## **8: PERMITTEE OR RIDER INSTRUCTIONS:**

Continued active riding should help to keep cattle from heading up the West Fork of the East Fork and the South Fork of the East Fork.

Please notify SNRA range staff at 208-774-3000 before allowing your livestock to enter the Upper East Fork C&H Allotment.

Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is an inconvenience. However it is still the **permittee's responsibility to keep their permitted livestock in the approved pasture/allotment**. Routine checks should be made by you and your rider to assure compliance.

Salt should be used to spread livestock utilization across the pasture being grazed. The permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.

**Livestock salting is prohibited within riparian areas and wetlands.** Do not place salt within 100 yards of any watering area or meadow unless you receive prior approval. This includes, but is not limited to, springs, seeps, water troughs, and creeks.

Salt will be removed from areas where the maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season, whichever occurs first.

By USDA order #04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

## **9: REQUIRED REPORTING:**

Enclosed is a grazing use record form for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the time (dates) livestock spend on an allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, salting, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs etc. The grazing use record should be returned to the district office within 30 days after the grazing season.

Please submit requests for credits or refunds before December 31.

## **10: INSPECTIONS & MONITORING:**

Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing season.

Range inspections may be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. If you are interested in participating in allotment inspections, please notify the range staff at the beginning of the grazing season.

End-of-season compliance monitoring will be conducted by the SNRA Range Staff, (See Section #3). Exceeding end-of-season utilization standards will be regarded as an instance of non-compliance with

the terms of your grazing permit. In addition to the potential for permit action, this may further result in the modification of grazing management (including reductions in Head Months or permitted area) until the risk of adverse impacts to habitat is minimized.

#### **11: COORDINATION & COOPERATION:**

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending livestock, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to Steve Nadeau at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Headquarters Office in Boise, Idaho (208-334-3700); Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208-378-5077); or local Wildlife Services contacts. Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. **Note: Due to recent changes in management of wolves, these phone numbers may change as the season progresses.** The phone numbers listed above are from 2010 wolf management.

Contact the range staff at the Stanley Ranger Station (208-774-3000) for local Wildlife Services contact information.

In order to reduce the potential for depredation, the Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented each grazing season:

- Bury or remove cattle and saddle stock carcasses from the area where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The intent of this recommendation is not to require removal of carcasses from the allotment, but to remove them out of areas currently being grazed or areas soon to be grazed.
- Work with IDF&G and Wildlife Services in implementing other effective preventative actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

#### **12: OTHER:**

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment's resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of this allotment, we would like to hear from you. If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call Robert Garcia 774-3014, Beth Bratlie 774-3013 or myself at 208-727-5000.

#### **13: MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:**

Permittee Actual Use Record (use, losses, costs, etc.)

**14: SIGNATURES:**

/s/ Sara E Baldwin

06/24/2011

District Ranger

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee(s)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**2011 Actual Use Record  
Upper East Fork C&H Allotment**

Planned use from the AOI:

Unit	Rotation	Approximate Season
Fisher/Narrow Canyon	Use 1st	06/11 - 07/11
East Fork	Use 2 <sup>nd</sup> (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	07/12 - 07/31**
Grouse / Albert	Use 2 <sup>nd</sup> (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	07/12 - 07/31**
West Pass	Use 3rd (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	08/01 - 08/14**
Bowery	Use 3rd (split livestock numbers between units. Percentage placed in each unit is at permittees discretion.)	08/01 - 08/14**

Please fill in your actual use by the unit grazed and the number of livestock and dates grazed in each unit. Bulls count as part of your permitted numbers.

Unit	Number of Livestock	Date entered Unit	Date left Unit

LOSSES: Indicate number and class of animals lost by cause.

Unit	Class of Lvstk	Predators	Poison	Other

Days spent maintaining allotment improvements: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate cost of materials: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate cost to manage livestock on National Forest, including riding, salting etc.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_